



THE LITTLE ACORN

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
darnestowncivic.org

Volume 62 Number 3
Fall 2025

President's Corner

Note from the President

By Scott Mostrom



As I sit in the Gaithersburg High School parking lot before my daughter's field hockey game, seizing a few moments to finally start this article, I can literally feel time passing through me. I'm inspired to write about our youth, especially after the pride and joy from honoring Jacob Hagen and Yana Tagoe-Mocumbi with the Bruce Deppa and DCA Scholarships in our last Town Hall, and as I look forward to the celebration of Darnestown Elementary School's 70th year this fall.

But I'm allowing myself a moment to take in my surroundings. At first, I think it's just the warm September breeze sweeping in some kind of nostalgic sentiment. Directly to my front is the stadium where my daughter, just out of sight, is warming up. Her first year of varsity field hockey, a sport she just picked up a couple of years ago in her freshman year. To the right is the gym where I took her older sister, now in college, for her first select basketball tryout. The feeling in my gut from that day returns just recalling it. She was one of the smallest and least experienced among over 100 girls in that packed gym—a brave endeavor born from her own desire. To my left are the basketball courts where she persevered in practices after that ... and I now remember why I'm so familiar with this parking lot.

And gazing just a little further, there's Bohrer Park—the destination of countless trips over the winter seasons for all three kids to play rec basketball during their elementary school days.

I would still chalk it up to being sentimental ... until I see the car parked just a few spaces away. A Gaithersburg senior has '2026' graduation writing across all the windows, I guess announcing just

Continued on page 2

What's Happening in Darnestown

Further details can be found in this issue.

**Oct. 16, 23 & 30 | 9:15–10:15 a.m.
or 10:30–11:15 a.m.**

Butler Montessori Farm & Forest Explorers
Free Fall Program for ages 2-5
Go to www.butlerschool.org/forest for details

Nov. 1, 2025

**Deadline for the Winter Issue
of *The Little Acorn***

Email ideas, questions or articles to
acorn@darnestowncivic.org

Nov. 8, 2025 | 1:00–4:00 p.m.

**Darnestown Elementary School
70th Anniversary Celebration**
See page 5 for details

Nov. 8, 2025

Darnestown Presbyterian Church Annual Bazaar
Go to www.darnestownpc.org for details

Nov. 11, 2025 | 9:30–11:00 a.m.

Veteran's Day Breakfast

Darnestown Presbyterian Church
15120 Turkey Foot Rd.

Go to www.darnestowncivic.org for details

The DCA is Looking For a Social Chair

The social chair helps plan fun, welcoming events that make our community feel connected. If you are a member of the DCA and are interested in this position, please let us know by reaching out to dca@darnestowncivic.org.

Continued from page 1

one year to go. In big letters on the driver's side window, the car shouts 'Let's Go Places'.

And that's what happens. That's what's supposed to happen, right? The days of driving them everywhere so they can try new things and push their boundaries—opportunities to spread their wings. Those days pass into days when (finally) they can drive themselves, and finally to days when they've driven right out of town. More figuratively, they've spread their wings and they've flown out of town.

Don't get me wrong, I love seeing them spread their wings. Every parent can relate to that incredible pride as their kids become more independent, use their own judgment, and tackle new challenges on their own initiative. It doesn't matter if it's a first step, first word, soccer goal, music recital, or some other accomplishment you could have never foreseen. Sometimes, it's just being out there. We're there to see them flourish but still catch them when they fall. It even includes seeing them in their dorm room, smiling from campus far away, but now we're just not as close to catch them.

As my kids get to this college-bound age, I'm now a first-hand witness to their Darnestown friends that are also ready to soar. The 2nd graders that I couldn't corral in a soccer practice for simple dribbling drill are now impressive young adults. I'm proud of all of them all, and proud of the 'Darnestown' that's baked into their foundation to help make them the person they are. That's something we should all take great pride in and is something they'll always have ... whatever places they go.

And with that, I think I'll sit in my car just a bit longer before heading into the game.

DCA 2025 Memberships

Additional DCA Members

We welcome the following DCA members who have either joined since the last publication of *The Little Acorn*, or were mistakenly left off the last membership listing.

Business

BBDASH Contracting

Acorn

Gary & Barbara Kahn

Mark & Heather

Reichardt

Seneca Academy

Sponsor

Kent Goulding

Brian & Danielle Lynch

Cathleen Cherry-Mann &

Graylin Mann

John & Nayibe Salazar

Ross & Cheryl Williams

Friend

Martine & Reza

Amirkhalili

Lee & Betty Brown

Aprile & Bruce Clayton

Tony & Kim Conte

Nancy Fasciano

Luis & Martina Fiallo

Jeffrey & Sandy

Goodman

Mary Lindberg

Lynn Meister

Dennis & Autumn Metzger

Michael & Susan Moses

Eric & Larra Van Dyke

Chip & Sharon Veirs

Vicki & Jay Wheeler

Denise Wu & Gabe Chang

Basic

Paul & Nicole Garrett

Rob & Christine

Gresham

Eugene & Allison

Kozicharow

Cherry & Harsh

Marwaha

John & Toby Mattingly

Yoosof & Carol

Mozaffari

Ed & Sue Rall

Jim & Mary Rill

Gary Schumacher

Lindsay & Geoff Tobias

Ed & Kathy Wall

Tony Warner

Amy Wilson

Korin & Tim Wilson

Linda Winpisinger

Join the "Darne" Community!

We would love to have you as part of our Darnestown Civic Association community. Check out the various way to get involved below and help us be a voice for Darnestown!

Become a Member



Join the DCA and help drive the future of Darnestown. You can register for a DCA membership online

by going to darnestowncivic.org/memberships/ or by scanning the QR code here.

Follow us on Facebook



Follow the DCA on Facebook for news and updates about neighborhood events and committee

projects. Go to www.facebook.com/DarnestownCivicAssociation or scan the QR code here.

Volunteer

If you are a member of the DCA and are interested in taking on a more active role, please let us know by reaching out to dca@darnestowncivic.org.

To Learn more about the DCA go to <https://darnestowncivic.org>

Community News and Events

Field of Fun!

By Curt McCormick (BHR)



The 35th season of the Little Acorn Softball League wrapped up in early August as Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield (BHR) captured its 21st crown. BHR retook the trophy from the 2024 champion, Jones Lane, who had captured their first-ever crown last year.

After beginning the season at 1-1, BHR rolled off 7 straight wins on their way to the title. BHR was strengthened by an influx of young, talented players who answered the call to join their neighbors on the diamond at Darnestown Park on summer Sunday afternoons.

BHR's new talent shined most brightly in the infield, as the champs featured what became known as the "million-dollar infield." This strong defense made the difference in several close, key contests. Combined with the efforts of many valuable, productive veterans, BHR seemed to make the right plays at the right time, and the result was their recapturing the league championship.

Jones Lane, the Central Darnestown Swingers and Western Darnestown each fielded fine teams and enjoyed numerous moments of success, but in the end the consistency of BHR proved to be the difference.

All league players and their legions of family and fans wish to express gratitude to the Darnestown Civic Association and to neighbors from all across Darnestown, whose support of DCA makes the Little Acorn Softball League (as well as many other DCA-sponsored community-based activities throughout the year) possible.

Week-in, week-out, win or lose, throughout our recent hot Maryland summer, players and families from all teams enjoyed spirited weekly competition and enjoyable fellowship. All look forward to lacing up the cleats again next April to renew one of Darnestown's best traditions.

TEAM	W	L	T	Runs For	Runs Against	Games Behind
Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield	8	1	0	93	56	--
Central Darnestown Swingers	5	3	1	79	74	2.5
Jones Lane	4	4	1	88	70	3.5
Western Darnestown	0	9	0	37	97	8.0

Community News and Events (continued)

Colton Jamieson and the “Wolfpack” Swing for Williamsport

For most 12-year-olds, the summer means pool days, ice cream and bike rides around the neighborhood. But for local resident Colton Jamieson, it meant clutch pitching performances, key at-bats, and a chance to make history with his teammates on The Montgomery County Little League 12U “Wolfpack” team.



On July 25, 2025, Jamieson and the Wolfpack captured the Maryland state championship with a thrilling 1-0 win over Berlin. The victory was the culmination of months of hard work and long practices.



Fresh off their state championship victory, the Wolfpack headed to Bristol, Connecticut, for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Tournament—and they came ready to play. Their opening matchup on August 3 against Pennsylvania ended in a tough 7–2 loss, but the team refused to let that setback define their

run. With determination on their side, Jamieson and his teammates stormed back the next day, with a decisive 12–5 win over the Capitol Hill Little League team from Washington, D.C. Riding that momentum, they followed up three days later with an 8–4 victory over Delaware, securing their spot in the championship game.

On August 8, the Wolfpack once again faced Pennsylvania with the ultimate prize on the line: a ticket to the Little League World Series. While the regional championship was the end of the Wolfpack’s journey, many in our community were thrilled to follow along as Jamieson and his team advanced through the tournament. The games were broadcast on ESPN which gave fans a front row seat to cheer Jamieson on. After the tournament, *The Little Acorn* was able to catch up with Jamieson to ask a few questions about his experience.

What was your favorite moment from the tournament?

My favorite moment in the tournament was when our team won against Delaware in the semi finals to go to

the Championship game. This was the moment when our team actually realized we were only ONE game away from Williamsport and it was very exciting.

What was the most challenging part of the tournament?

Trying to go to sleep. We all stayed together—all 12 kids and 3 coaches in a large dorm room. Some kids brought eye masks and earplugs. The New York team was super loud and they were in the room right next to us—so that didn’t help.

You had a lot of great plays during the tournament. Did any stand out as something you were especially proud of and why?

Getting the first hit of the tournament for our team was pretty exciting. We were playing Pennsylvania in game one and Aidan Mercer was pitching. That felt good.

How did it feel to play on national television?

It was really cool having the big cameras—which at first was kind of weird. There were some differences from a normal game, for example, we had to wait in the dugout during commercial breaks and only came up to bat once the camera man told us it was OK. Eventually you do forget about all the cameras and you just go back to playing the game.

Some players talk about not washing socks, or keeping something lucky in their pockets for big games. Do you have any lucky charms that you kept on you during the games, or do you have any superstitions or things you do before every game?

I do a specific stretching routine before every game and that gets me ready. Another thing is I decided not to



shower before my games—along with a few of my other teammates—sorry coach!

Now that you had such an amazing season, do you have any big goals for next season?

I’m excited to win some games with my new local travel team. I also hope to continue to play on

Continued on page 5

Community News and Events (continued)

Continued from page 4

the USA Prime National team—who gets to travel all around the country to compete in really fun and competitive tournaments.

Are there any players you admire and want to emulate?

Jackson Holliday—I like his swing and he hustles. He is young and was drafted out of high school. I like the way he plays the game.

What are you most excited about for your baseball future?

I am most excited for playing high school baseball and

hopefully playing in college. My ultimate goal is to play in the SEC.

For the younger readers out there who look up to you and your teammates, any advice you can give them if they want to be successful on the baseball field?

You are going to fail more than you succeed in baseball. Learn to not take the failures so hard and try to move on and focus on the next play. It's important to stay composed when you're on the field—you don't want your teammates or opponents seeing you get upset or rattled if things aren't going well. That's my advice.

70th Anniversary Celebration For Darnestown Elementary Platinum Pumpkin Palooza

Saturday, Nov 8 From 1-4 Pm

This year, Darnestown Elementary School marks a milestone—70 years of learning, friendships, and Mustang spirit! We are honored to invite the entire community to celebrate with us at our 70th Anniversary of DES: Platinum Pumpkin Palooza on Saturday, November 8, from 1:00 –4:00 p.m. at Darnestown ES.

From the very first graduating class in 1955 to today's proud Mustangs, our story is seven decades strong. This celebration is for EVERYONE. Whether you are an alum, a current student or family, a former staff member, or simply a Mustang fan in our community, we are thrilled to welcome you.

Enjoy fun-filled fall festivities including a Mustang Memory Lane Mini Museum, school tours, games, hands-on science station, book fair, music, special staff lounge (for current and prior DES staff), food, festive autumn activities, and much more. The day will also feature a commemorative presentation to honor the day leading into our 4th Annual Pumpkin Plop Roof Drop—a DES PTA



tradition you won't want to miss!

Want to be part of the celebration? Get involved by joining the planning team, participating as a vendor, lending a DES artifact or photo for display, or exploring sponsorship opportunities.

Contact Jenn Moss at DarnestownPTA@gmail.com or Vicki

Mostrom at Victoria_M_Mostrom@mcpsmd.org.

Let's come together as a community to honor our past, celebrate our present, and cheer for the bright future ahead. Once a Mustang, always a Mustang!

Farm & Forest Explorers – Free Fall Program

Join Butler Montessori this fall for Farm & Forest Explorers, a free, hands-on nature program for kids ages 2–5 and their grown-ups! Explore our farm, forest trails, and creeks during this fun, guided outdoor experience.

- Thursdays: Oct 16, 23 & 30 • 9:15–10:15 a.m. or 10:30–11:15 a.m.
- Butler Montessori, near Seneca Creek State Park

Learn more: butlerschool.org/forest | Spaces are limited!

Community News and Events (continued)

‘FORE’-Ever Grateful: 4th Annual Darnestown ES PTA Charity Golf Tournament

By Jenn Moss & Miguel Saba



The Darnestown ES PTA is grinning with gratitude after an *un-FORE-gettable* 4th Annual DES PTA Charity Golf Tournament and Online Auction at Bretton Woods! Thanks to our incredible community’s drive to do good, we

saw a ‘HOLE’ lot of heart in action—from the creative student-made signs that lined the course, to our generous sponsors, donors, golfers, and tireless volunteers.

You all showed up in full swing, which allowed us to

hit record breaking fundraising results! Because of your incredible support, we’re thrilled to have raised \$15,000 to impact DES PTA initiatives and Community FarmShare’s mission to fight food insecurity (<https://www.communityfarmshare.org/>).

Local businesses, golfers, volunteers, and auction donors didn’t just play the course or bid to win a prize—you played a part in something much bigger. Thank you for helping us turn a day of golf and online auction into a lasting difference for our community!

Title Sponsor

Miguel Saba—Compass Real Estate

Eagle Eyes On Education Sponsors

Equipment Share

The Freedom Center

Darnestown Driver Sponsor

Whitman Summer Camp & Whitman Events Co.

Mustang Mulligan Sponsors

Edelman Financial Engines

Pruitt Title, LLC

Woodlawn Mechanics Contractors

Awards Sponsor

United Business Technologies

‘Hole’ Lot Of Good Sponsors

6-12 Convenient Mart—Akshat

Enterprises, LLC

Bartlett Tree Experts

Bella Ballet & Empower by Bella Ballet

Coffee Talk with Margaret

Challenge Martial Arts

Fairhaven United Methodist Church

Georgetown Hill Early School

Stone Pillar Farm

Where the Moss Grows

The Bolding Family

The Sklavos Family

Sign Sponsor

EGI Printing & Graphics—
Gaithersburg

Auction & Raffle Donors

5 Wits of Arlington

Back to Rock (Kentlands)

Bartlett Tree Experts (special donation of trees)

Beat the Bomb—DC

Brews & Barrels

Challenge Martial Arts

Goldfish Swim School—Kentlands

Kentlands Flowers & Bows

Laperaux French Bistro

Lewis Orchards

MoCo Golf Performance with

Dustin Stearns

Monster Mini Golf

Moss Family

Panera Bread

PB Dye Golf Course

Principal—Mr. Darshan Jain

Red Door Escape Room

Sanghee Jeong

Sarah’s Handmade Ice Cream

Six Flags America

Warner Theatre

Whitman Events Co.

X-Golf of Frederick

Continued on page 7



Community News and Events

Continued from page 6

Photographer

Richard Johnson, Jr., *Kelora Productions*

Event Yard Sign

Daphne O'Brien, *MoCo Sign Gypsies*

Special Thanks To

Event Day Guest Speakers

Diana Foley, *PTA President*
Darshan Jain, *DES Principal*

Chloe Sharrocks, *Vocalist*

Jennifer Freeman, *Founder of*

Community FarmShare

Corrie Troxel, *Volunteer Coordinator of Community FarmShare*

Volunteer Planning Team

Amber Colleran, Art Baker,
Chris Foster, Jenn Moss,
Kevin Colleran, Lauren Bolding,
Lauren Mooney, Martha Sklavos,

Matt Kimmel, Miguel Saba,
Rukmini Foster, Steve Moss

Bretton Woods

Golf Course Team

We applaud Jason Hill and the amazing team at Bretton Woods Recreation Center for making the event so wonderful!

**You—Our Supporters
& Golfers!!!**

Thank you for Attending Molly's ASAP Events



From the bottom of my heart, thank you for joining us for this year's Molly's events (Molly's ASAP Walk & Roll for a Cure, Molly's Match, and Molly's Mulligans) to support research and awareness for Chiari Malformation and Syringomyelia. Your presence, generosity, and encouragement mean more to me than words can ever express.

Many of you know my story. At just 16 years, I was diagnosed with Chiari and Syringomyelia after a soccer injury would not heal. Chiari Malformation (Arnold-Chiari) is a serious neurological disorder where the bottom part of the brain, the cerebellum, descends out of the skull and crowds the spinal cord, putting pressure on both the brain and spine, causing many symptoms. Syringomyelia is a chronic progressive disease in which longitudinal cavities form, a syrinx, in the cervical region of the spinal cord. This characteristically results in wasting of the muscles in the hands and a loss of sensation.

Since the day I received my first diagnosis, I have endured more than 60 brain and spine surgeries and faced many additional diagnoses. But through it all I have learned to appreciate everyday moments. I have gained strength and per-

spective. While, through "failure" after "failure," I fight with myself constantly about "my path, I have learned that it is all part of the journey, part of MY journey. After all, "We plan, God laughs!" is a slogan I truly live by. I may not understand the reasons, but I am confident that part of my "grand plan" is to raise money for research and awareness of the illnesses that have taken so much from my family and me.

Together, through annual events like our Molly's Walk & Roll for a Cure, Molly's Match, and Molly's Mulligans Golf Tournament, we've shown that when community comes together, we are unstoppable. Last year, thanks to your generosity, we raised more than \$84,000. This year, support continues to grow and we're still raising funds to make an even bigger impact. With your continued support, we're pushing even further towards better treatments—and one day a cure.

Due to a change in my health, this year's events may have looked a little different, but the spirit was still the same. I am so thankful for every participant, donor and volunteer—Molly's Army of Angels—together you give me strength, hope and the belief that anything is possible.

Organizations



PE.O. is a Philanthropic Educational Organization founded in 1869. P.E.O. has evolved into one of the largest nonsec-tarian, community-based organizations with nearly 6,000 chapters and almost a quarter of a million members in the 50 states, District of Columbia, and six Canadian Provinces.

We support six projects. One is the STAR scholarship which is a \$2500 scholarship for an exceptional woman in her final year of high school and plans to attend an accredited postsec-ondary education institution in the U.S. or Canada in the next academic year. The candidate will need to be recommended by a Chapter. It is recommended that the process be started in the Summer so that the application can be submitted between August 15 through October 15th.

The Educational Loan Fund (ELF) has a maximum value of \$12,000 for a bachelor program, \$15,000 for a master's program and \$20,000 for a doctoral program.

The Program for Continuing Education (PCE) for women whose education has been interrupted and find it necessary to return to school to support themselves and/or their families. It is a one-time, need-based grant awarded for academic, technical, or online courses. The maximum award is \$5000.

The Scholar Award (PSA) is a highly competitive merit-based award for women pursuing doctoral level or post graduate study or research. The maximum value is \$20,000. Applications must be submitted between August 15th–October 15th.

If you know of a possible candidate for any of the above projects please contact **randa.locke.peo@gmail.com** and/or view the website: **peointernational.org**

— Scouting Corner —

Troop 1094's Newest Eagle Scouts: Matthew Meyers and Taylor Smith

Scouting America's Troop 1094 in Darnestown is proud to announce the promotion of its two newest Eagle Scouts—Matthew Meyers and Taylor Smith.

Matthew was promoted to Eagle Scout in May 2025. He began his Scouting career in Cub Scout Pack 975 in San Diego before transferring to Cub Scout Pack 1094 in Dar-



*Matthew
Meyers*

nestown when his family moved to Mary-land. In May 2018, Matthew bridged to Boy Scout Troop 1094. For the last seven years, Matthew has participated in nu-merous outings and trips to summer camp with Troop 1094. He also earned 39 merit badges during that time. His most memo-rable experiences in Scouting were going on two high adventure trips to Philmont Scout Reservation in New Mexico and the Northern Tier High Adventure Base in Minnesota, as well as going to Scouting's National Jamboree at Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia.

For his Eagle Scout project, Matthew chose to restore and repaint the northern barn at Our Lady of Visitation Parish in Darnestown where the Troop stores all of its equipment and supplies. He selected the project as a way to give back to the church, since they have gen-erously allowed the Troop to store its equipment and supplies there for many years.

Matthew stated that his Eagle Scout project taught him valu-able lessons in project management and adaptability, partic-ularly with procuring materials, managing multiple teams, adhering to a detailed project timeline, and overcoming rescheduling challenges due to weather delays. Seeing the final result was incredibly rewarding, and the barn now looks refreshed and is better protected from the elements, with the new paint improving both its durability and enhancing the overall appearance of the church property.

Taylor was promoted to Eagle Scout in July 2025. He began his Scouting career in Cub Scout Pack 1094 in Darnestown. In May 2018, he bridged to Boy Scout Troop 1094. For the last seven years, Taylor has participated in numerous outings and trips to summer camp with Troop 1094. He also earned 28 merit badges during that time. His most memorable experiences in Scouting



Taylor Smith

were going on five separate high adventure trips: to Philmont Scout Reservation in New Mexico (twice), to Sea Base in Florida, to Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia, and to the Northern Tier High Adventure Base in Minnesota. Taylor is also very proud to have earned Scouting's coveted Grand Slam Award of High Adventure by having attended high adventure trips to all four of Scouting's high adventure bases throughout the US.

For his Eagle Scout project, Taylor chose to restore nu-

Continued on page 9

Organizations (continued)

Continued from page 8

merous trails on the disc golf course at the Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club, as the disc golf course is a popular recreational space for the Darnestown community. He organized the mulching of high-traffic pathways, supervised the installation of log barriers for erosion control, and supervised the construction of new stairs on two steep hills using logs and rebar. With strong support from family, friends, and fellow Scouts, the work was completed efficiently and ahead of schedule.

Taylor stated that his Eagle Scout project taught him valuable lessons about leadership and project management, particularly with leading multiple teams to accomplish various tasks, and also how to overcome various material shortages. Seeing the final result was incredibly rewarding, as the improvements to the trails have made the course much safer and more enjoyable for players. This Eagle Scout project also allowed Taylor to give back to a place that has been a meaningful part of his life for many years.

Interested in Joining Scouting America?

For Cub Scouts (Boys and Girls, Grades K-5)—The Pack meets monthly at the Darnestown Presbyterian Church,, typically on Weds at 6:30 p.m., and plans additional den and pack activities throughout the year. The Pack email address is cubscout.pack436.md@gmail.com if you have questions.

For Boys (Grades 6-12)—Troop 1094 Meets at Darnestown Presbyterian Church at 7:30 p.m. on Mondays throughout

the year. If your youth is interested in the outdoors and likes to have fun, then Troop 1094 is the place to be! We are a wonderful, Scout-led boy troop with an active calendar including monthly camping outings and other regular monthly events such as service projects, leadership opportunities, team building and outdoor skill development. Email chair@troop1094.org for more information.

For Girls (Grades 6-12)—Troop 239 is an all girls BSA Troop that meets Tuesday nights, at 7:00 p.m. at Darnestown Presbyterian Church (15120 Turkey Foot Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20878). Our troop is very active with weekly meetings and one overnight/outing trip scheduled each month, summer camp, and High Adventure. If you like adventure and fun! We are the troop for your youth. Email cathyymailliw@gmail.com.

If your youth is ready to join any of these units, simply go to <https://beascout.org> and fill out an application.

All three units are grateful to be chartered by the Darnestown Presbyterian Church.

Gaithersburg Area Neighbors & Newcomers Club (GANC)

A women's social organization dedicated to promoting friendship through activities, events, and informative programs.

For more information, email:
GANCMembership1@yahoo.com

Schools

Butler Montessori

Thinking Montessori for your little one? Butler Montessori's Infant Community (Nido), serving children ages 6 weeks to 18 months, offers a warm, nurturing start, grounded in the Montessori philosophy. While our Nido program is currently full through February 2026, we have select openings available:

- **March 2026:** 2 openings for babies born **in or after July 2025**
- **May 2026:** 1 opening for a baby born **in or after August 2025**
- **September 2026:** 1 opening for a baby born **in or after August 2025**

Enrollment in Nido also provides **priority access** to our Toddler and Preschool Communities, which are often full or have waiting lists. In-person tours are available after 4:00 p.m. by appointment. Email our Admissions Office to schedule (admissions@butlerschool.org). Learn more at butlerschool.org/nido.

Inside Our High School's First Year

Butler Montessori's inaugural high school class described their first year as "a successful experiment," filled with exploration, growth, and unforgettable experiences. Students traveled to Costa Rica to study biodiversity in the rainforest, directed and performed their own abridged

Continued on page 10

Schools (continued)

Continued from page 9

Shakespeare play at the Folger Festival, and recorded original music in a professional studio. They also launched a work-study program, presented at an international adolescent sustainability summit in Canada, and adopted a class turtle named Monty.

“If I was a blade of grass at my last school, at Butler I am a flower blooming on a tree,” reflected Sofia, capturing the spirit of belonging and individuality that defines the Fairhaven High School program (grades 10-12). Curious about our program? Learn more at www.ButlerSchool.org/highschool

Darnestown Elementary School

By Parker Silverman, 6th Grade Student

Well, it has come the time where the school year starts again. A very special thing about this year, yet sad too, is that we said goodbye to many staff members including longtime beloved teachers, Mrs. LaClair and Mrs. Rose, so we have many new staff members this year. I want to give a big welcome and thank you to all of them.

This year we have the traditional start of the year activities like the Back-to-School Picnic, Pumpkin Palooza, and the Halloween celebration. Since I have heard the PTA talking, I can say the PTA is putting a lot of effort and work into the school this year. There will be a big membership and fundraising drive called “THE BIG GIVE: New Start, All Heart 2025 Annual DES PTA Member Drive & Fundraiser.” They are even making a new Danestown jingle contest which I will be working on. I give a big welcome to all the new students and I hope they have just as much fun as I did at DES. I may not be at DES anymore, but I still love the school very much.

Back to School at Georgetown Hill: A Joyful New Beginning for Little Learners

By Nicole Reap

As the lazy days of summer come to an end, there’s a special kind of magic that fills the air at Georgetown Hill Early School. Backpacks are dusted off, name

tags are placed on cubbies, and our classrooms come alive with the sound of giggles, songs, and brand-new friendships forming.

For many of our families, this fall marks a significant milestone: your child’s very first day of preschool. And while it’s exciting, it’s also completely normal to feel a mix of pride, nerves, and even a few tears (yes, from both kids and grown-ups!).

As a long-time teacher and fellow mom, I want to offer a few heartfelt tips to help make the transition to school smoother for you and your little one.

1. Keep Goodbyes Short and Sweet

Lingering goodbyes can make it harder for your child to settle in. Instead, give a warm hug, a confident “You’re going to have a great day!” and trust us to take it from there. Remember that kids pick up on your energy. If you seem calm and positive, they’ll feel that too.

2. Build a Predictable Routine

Morning routines help kids feel safe and secure. Try using a simple visual checklist at home: get dressed, eat breakfast, brush teeth, grab backpack. Predictability helps little ones feel confident and in control.

3. Talk About What to Expect

Read a book about starting school, visit the classroom ahead of time if you can, or practice “pretend preschool” at home. Talk about the fun things they’ll do—playtime, stories, snacks, and making new friends.

4. Expect Big Feelings (and That’s Okay!)

Separation anxiety is completely normal, especially in the early weeks. Know that our teachers are here to support your child with love, patience, and understanding. Most tears don’t last long, and before you know it, they’ll be running in with a smile.

At Georgetown Hill, we believe that school is not just a place to learn—it’s a place to grow. We focus on nurturing the whole child: socially, emotionally, and academically. We’re proud to partner with families to create a safe, joyful, and empowering start to your child’s learning journey.

For more information about Georgetown Hill Early School, please call 301-527-1761.

Continued on page 11

Schools (continued)

Continued from page 10



Northwest High School PTSA & Booster Club Update

By Kimberly Summers, Jenn Ripkin and Jenn Moss

On behalf of the Northwest High School PTSA and Booster Club, we extend our warmest *con-JAG-ulations* to the Class of 2025! We are so proud of each graduate who has demonstrated that hard work, determination, and community support pave the way for extraordinary futures.

Class of 2025 Highlights:

- 95% graduation rate
- 75 graduates earned a high school diploma AND associate's degree from Montgomery College
- 34% of the Class became first-generation college bound students
- 86% of the Class plan to attend a 2-or 4-year college or university
- 85% of the Class took college-level courses during high school
- 81% of the Class completed Advanced Placement courses
- 29% of Class took one or more college classes at Montgomery College
- 29 graduates committed to play on college athletic teams
- 78 graduates received the Maryland Seal of Biliteracy
- 157 graduates were honored as Minds in Motion Scholar Athletes, earning 3.25+ GPA while playing a sport
- 91,554 Student Service Learning (SSL) hours
- 1,200 admission offers to 241 different colleges, universities, and career programs

These numbers reflect more than achievements—they represent dreams realized and futures just beginning.

With over 2,400 students representing 60 countries, Northwest High School is a vibrant, diverse community. NWHS offers an array of academically rigorous opportunities, including:

- 30 Advanced Placement (AP) courses
- The Ulysses Signature Program
- Early & Middle College partnerships with Montgomery College
- Three nationally recognized academies: Biotechnology, Finance, and Fine Arts

As the PTSA and Booster Club, we proudly support over 100 extracurricular activities—academic, athletic, and artistic. Our mission is to build lasting connections between families, students, staff, alumni, and the broader community. Together, we fuel futures, foster friendships, and fan the flame of Jaguar pride every step of the way.

We invite YOU to join us. Whether you're a proud parent, a faculty favorite, a dedicated alum, or a local business leader looking to give back—there's a place for you in the PTSA and Booster Club this fall. *Your partnership powers possibilities.* Your support will:

- Boost 100+ programs across academics, arts, and athletics
- Enhance resources for performances, practices, and competitions
- Celebrate student achievements through scholarships and awards
- Strengthen school spirit and community connection
- Offer meaningful visibility for your business while investing in tomorrow's leaders

Learn more about membership and sponsorship opportunities at: nwhsptsa.org/sponsors

Have questions or ideas? Reach out to us at sponsorships@nwhsboosters.org

Let's rally around our remarkable Jaguars and make the 2025–2026 school year unforgettable—on the field, on the stage, and in the heart of our community. Thank you for your unwavering support!

Seneca Academy

Seneca Academy is thrilled to begin its 43rd year by welcoming Dr. Karen Tyler as our fourth head of school! Dr. Tyler comes to Seneca Academy from Erie Day School, a preschool through middle school in Pennsylvania. She spent 14 years leading as their head of school following many semesters as a professor with Edinboro University.

Continued on page 12

Schools (continued)

Continued from page 11

Dr. Tyler's early years were spent teaching in public elementary classrooms before becoming a special education literacy coach for elementary and middle school students. Dr. Tyler has an International Baccalaureate (IB) educator certification in teaching and learning for the Primary Years Program, which Seneca Academy provides! Her professional activities include long service in multiple roles at Pennsylvania Western University's Edinboro campus, where she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees. Dr. Tyler also holds an Ed.D. in curriculum and instruction from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. We are so happy to have her join the village!

As an IB World School, we have a long tradition of helping our students become knowledgeable, caring, open-minded, principled, and balanced communicators and thinkers. Our curriculum and instruction are evidence-based and hands-on, allowing students to grow and thrive across content areas throughout their preschool and

elementary years! Additionally, Yale University's RULER approach provides a framework for social-emotional learning for both students and faculty members. We enjoy our National Wildlife Federation Schoolyard Habitat each day, not only for a variety of phenomenal daily recess experiences, but also to explore topics from math and physics to art and creative writing. **It is not too late to join our amazing learning community!** Limited spaces are available in our programs for ages 2 through Grade 5. Please email info@senecaacademy.org to inquire about class availability and to schedule a tour!



Friday Friends Playgroup: Seneca Academy is offering a free playgroup open to all parents and caregivers of infants to two-year-olds. We will be gathering and playing in a toddler-friendly classroom on the second Friday of the month beginning in October. Please visit senecaacademy.org/fridayfriends for more info!

Churches



Darnestown Presbyterian Church

www.DarnestownPC.org

Annual Bazaar is on Nov 8th. The annual Darnestown Presbyterian Women's Bazaar is coming again this fall! As always, we will feature crafts, home décor, holiday gifts, books, jewelry, and plenty of home baked goods and jams—plus, enjoy a hot lunch or homemade dessert in our Café. **Proceeds from the Bazaar support multiple local charities**—please come, enjoy, and support this Darnestown institution!

We are Family Friendly! We love to welcome families with children to our church, and we make it easy on parents! Each service features a Children's Message, after which children can attend "Junior Church," with tailored lessons and activities (children may also stay with parents in the sanctuary). The last Sunday of each

month is "Intergenerational," with children staying in a more "child-friendly" service. *And of course, we have a Nursery for our smallest friends (up to age 4) with two attendants each Sunday.*

Worship & Live-Streaming. We worship Sunday at **10:30 a.m.**, preceded by Christian Education, and *we live-stream services on YouTube*. Check our website for info and updates.



Fairhaven United Methodist Church

12801 Darnestown Road • Gaithersburg, MD
www.FairhavenUMCMaryland.com

Worship Sunday Mornings at 10:30 a.m. Join us for worship in the sanctuary or via Zoom. Our service

Continued on page 13

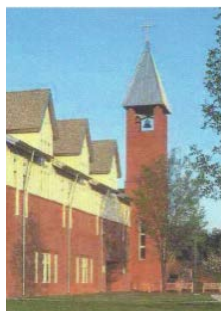
Churches (continued)

Continued from page 12

is fully interactive for those at home and at the church. Our Gospel, Sanctuary and Handbell choirs offer special music throughout the year. Holy Communion is celebrated on the 1st Sunday of every month and at other special Sundays. The Zoom link can be requested from our church administrator, fairhavenumc@gmail.com.

Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Church

14139 Seneca Road • Darnestown, MD 20874
301-948-5536 • www.olvp.org



Our Lady of the Visitation Parish welcomes everyone to come and experience our joy-filled community.

Children's Choir and Music Programs, Outreach Speakers, Women's and Men's Groups as well as Book Clubs and Movie Nights begin immediately after Labor Day.

Mass is celebrated on Saturday evenings at 5:00 p.m., on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. and at 11:30 a.m. and on Sunday night at 5:00 p.m.

Please visit our website, www.olvp.org for event times, dates and all the latest news. Don't miss our weekly podcast at olvpatholicexpression.podbean.com.

Business Directory

Looking for a local business? The generosity of these local businesses helps to pay for the printing and distribution of *The Little Acorn*. You can also access this listing at www.darnestowncivic.org under the **Community Information** tab.

6-Twelve | Convenient Mart

14100 Darnestown Road, Darnestown
301-990-1700
6-12beerwinemart@gmail.com

BBDASH Contracting | Home Improvement, DIY Helper, Fine Wood Working

13005 Darnestown Road, Darnestown
301-938-2859
bbdashcontracting@comcast.net

Melissa Bernstein Homes, RLAH—Christine's International Real Estate | Realtor

726 Turtle Pond Land, Gaithersburg
301-908-4007
www.melissabernstein.com

Birchwood Holiday Lighting and Lawncare | Landscape Services

13424 Haddonfield Lane, Darnestown
301-275-5417
kricci2@verizon.net

Bretton Woods | Recreation Center

15700 River Road, Darnestown
301-948-3357
www.bwrc.org

Brezovek & Associates | Financial Advisor

15120 Water Oak Dr., Darnestown
301-320-1483
mbrezovec@ampf.com

Jose Carbajal | Lawn & Landscaping, Tree removal, Snow removal, Firewood

14111 Esworthy Road, Darnestown
jose.lawnandlandscaping@gmail.com

Carpet & Flooring LLC | Carpet & Flooring Services

14115 Seneca Road, Darnestown
240-477-7260
majid@carpetandflooringcenter.com

Clark Tree Services | Tree Service

5 Finegan Court, Darnestown
240-560-8733
daniel@clarktrees.com

Darnestown Shell | Gas, Convenience, Auto Repairs

14020 Darnestown Road, Darnestown
301-840-8515
darnestownshell@gmail.com

Darnestown Smiles | Family Dentistry

14128 Darnestown Road, Darnestown
240-477-8251
mail@darnestownsmiles.com

Darnestown Swim & Racquet Club | Swim, Tennis, Summer Camp & Disc Golf Club

15004 Spring Meadows Drive, Darnestown
301-330-1340
GM@dsrclub.com

Valerie Fuster, Realtor | Long & Foster Real Estate Inc.

10121 River Road, Potomac
301-980-3083 Direct
301-299-6000 Office
Valerie@LNF.com
www.valfuster.com

Georgetown Hill Early School | Preschool

15120-B Turkey Foot Road, Darnestown
301-527-1761
www.georgetownhill.com
darnestown@georgetownhill.com

Continued on page 14

Business Directory (continued)

Continued from page 13

Johnson Chimney Service | *Chimney Repair & Restoration*

14115 Seneca Road, Darnestown
301-949-1780

www.johnsonchimney.com/us/walter@johnsonchimney.com

Johnson Roofing Service | *Residential & Commercial Roofing Solutions*

14115 Seneca Road, Darnestown
301-949-1700

www.johnsonroofingservice.com/info@johnsonroofingservice.com

Lowe-Tillson Insurance & Associates, Inc. | *Full-Service Insurance Agency*

2403 Research Boulevard,
Ste. 350, Rockville
301-258-7773

www.lowetillson.com/service@lowetillson.com

ohDEER | *Organic Deer, Tick & Mosquito Control*

833-ohDEERMoCo | 833-643-3376
MoCoMD@oh-DEER.com
[@ohDEERMoCo](http://www.oh-DEER.com/MoCo)

Pleasant Hills Farm | *Specialty Cut Flower Farm*

14820 Kelly Farm Drive, Darnestown
240-281-2110

www.pleasanthillsfarm.com
amy@pleasanthillsfarm.com

Preferred Insurance Solutions, LLC | *Auto, Home and Business Insurance*

20030 Century Boulevard, Ste. 201,
Germantown
301-428-3344
ins@preferredinsurancesolutions.com

Miguel Saba Realtor | *Compass Real Estate*

12435 Park Potomac Avenue
Ste R-1, Potomac
240-775-0509
miguel@miguelsaba.com
www.miguelsaba.com

Seneca Studio | *Original Handcrafted Furnishings*

240-812-1792
Senecastudio.com
lukasz@senecastudio.com

Smokey Glen Farm | *Event Facilities and BBQs*

16407 Riffleford Road, Darnestown
301-948-1518
jsweet@smokeyglenfarm.com

Stiles Dentistry | *Dentist*

333 Main Street, Gaithersburg
301-947-6900
smile@stilesdentistry.com

SwimLabs Swim School | *Swim School*

353 Muddy Branch Road,
Gaithersburg
240-801-4518
ddombay@swimlabs.com

The Tyra Law Firm, LLC | *Estate Planning Law Office*

199 East Montgomery Avenue, Suite
100, Rockville
301-315-0811
neiltyra@tyralawfirm.com

United Service Specialists | *HVAC Services*

7559 Rickenbacker Drive,
Gaithersburg
dispatch@calluss.com

Valley Mill Camp | *Camp*

15101 Seneca Road, Darnestown
301-948-0220
www.valleymill.com
evelyn@valleymill.com

Windridge Vineyards | *Vineyard*

15700 Darnestown Road, Darnestown
301-607-4399
robert@windridgefarm.com

Interested in joining this list?
Please use our online application form
at darnestowncivic.org.

The Little Acorn

Editor: Amber Colleran
(acorn@darnestowncivic.org)

Publisher: Darnestown Civic Association

Darnestown Civic Association

President: Scott Mostrom
(president@darnestowncivic.org)

Vice President: Paul Klee
(vicepresident@darnestowncivic.org)

Treasurer: Amy Kurtenbach
(treasurer@darnestowncivic.org)

Secretary: Elizabeth Rorick
(secretary@darnestowncivic.org)

Trustees:
Kellie Hodges, Stephanie Kunkle, Will Lowe
(trustee@darnestowncivic.org)

Committee Chairs

Compliance: Michael Gottlieb
(compliance@darnestowncivic.org)

Communications Lead: Kellie Hodges
(communications@darnestowncivic.org)

Darnestown Village: Pam DuBois
(village@darnestowncivic.org)

Database: Scott Mostrom
(database@darnestowncivic.org)

Flag Program: Tim Sanders
(flag@darnestowncivic.org)

History: Allan Luke
(history@darnestowncivic.org)

Membership: Pam DuBois
(membership@darnestowncivic.org)

Roads Task Force: Michael Centrella
(rtf@darnestowncivic.org)

Safety Committee:
(safety@darnestowncivic.org)

Seneca Forest Project: James Wheeler
(deer@darnestowncivic.org)

Social Events:
(social@darnestowncivic.org)

Softball: Dave Bivans
(softball@darnestowncivic.org)

Strategic Planning: Tim Sanders
(strategicplanning@darnestowncivic.org)

Website: Ben Jamieson, Neil Agate
(website@darnestowncivic.org)

Welcome: Pam DuBois, Maya Miloski,
Melissa Mostrom
(welcome@darnestowncivic.org)

Zoning: Miguel Saba
(zoning@darnestowncivic.org)

Darnestown Churches, Organizations, & Schools

If you are a Darnestown school, organization or church and would like your name added to this list, please send your information to acorn@darnestowncivic.org

Churches

Darnestown Presbyterian Church

15120 Turkey Foot Rd
Darnestown, MD 20878
301-948-9127 • Darnestownpc.org
dpchurch@comcast.net

Fairhaven United Methodist Church

Rev. Kenneth Hawes
12801 Darnestown Rd
Darnestown, MD 20874
301-330-5433

Gaithersburg International Christian Fellowship

13101 Darnestown Rd
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-869-8343 • welcome@gicf.church

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

Father Greg Shaffer
14139 Seneca Rd,
Darnestown MD 20874
301-948-5536
www.Olvp.org • parishoffice@olvp.org

Seneca Community Church

Rev. Kenneth N. Nelson
13900 Berryville Rd
Darnestown, MD 20874
301-869-9326 • senecachurch.org

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

Rev. Beth O'Callaghan
15575 Germantown Rd
Darnestown, MD 20874
240-631-2800 • www.Saintnicks.com

Organizations

Boy Scout Troop 1094

sm@troop1094.org

Cub Scout Pack 436

[www.troopwebhostcs.org/
Pack436NorthPotomac/](http://www.troopwebhostcs.org/Pack436NorthPotomac/)

Darne Bloomers Garden Club

www.Darnebloomers.com

Darnestown Civic Association

14100G Darnestown Rd
Darnestown, MD 20874
www.Darnestowncivic.org

Girl Scout Troop 33217

troop.33217@gmail.com

P.E.O. International

www.peointernational.org

Schools

Butler Montessori School

15951 Germantown Rd
Darnestown, MD 20874
301-977-6600

Darnestown Elementary School

15030 Turkey Foot Rd
Darnestown, MD 20878
301-548-4260

Georgetown Hill Early School

15120-B Turkey Foot Road
Darnestown, MD 20878
301-527-1761
www.georgetownhill.com

Jones Lane Elementary School

15110 Jones Ln
Darnestown, MD 20878
301-840-8160

Lakelands Park Middle School

1200 Main St.,
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-670-1400

Little Seneca Bilingual Montessori

14010 Darnestown RD,
Darnestown, MD 20878
Tel. 301-500-6345
littlesenecamontessori.com
littlesenecamontessori@gmail.com

Mary of Nazareth School

14131 Seneca Rd
Darnestown, MD 20874
301-869-0940
www.Maryofnazareth.org

Northwest High School

12501 Richter Farm Rd
Germantown, MD 20874
301-601-4660

Quince Orchard High School

15800 Quince Orchard Rd
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-840-4686

Service Providers

To be included on this list in the next issue of *The Little Acorn*, please email your contact information including your year of birth to acorn@darnestowncivic.org before November 1, 2025. Please let us know if you no longer want to be listed. Of course, for those over 21, you may be listed as an adult. We reserve this listing for those who are members of the DCA. A great reason to join! Note that babysitters and mother's helpers must be under 21 to be listed.

Babysitters & Mother's Helpers

Esther Clark (2007) 240-328-9842
Jennifer Juhring (2004) 240-575-0009
Laney Mostrom (2009) 240-380-6536
Abby Zappone (2009) 240-474-1586

Notary Services

Tina Kalil 301-943-9840
Elisa Lane 301-990-2993

House/Pet Sitters

Liv Gabri (2009) 240-353-7079
Kirabo Payne (2009) . 202-257-9378
Ian Scale (2001) 240-334-8800



Darnestown Civic Association, Inc.

14100G Darnestown Road

Darnestown, MD 20874

Email: dca@darnestowncivic.org

Website: darnestowncivic.org

